

**SEATTLE PUBLIC UTILITIES
WATER SYSTEM ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Date: 3 May 2010

To: Councilmember Mike O'Brien and the SPU and Neighborhoods Committee Members

Re: Use of Imazapyr in the Cedar River Watershed

In April, two of our members, Helen Ross Pitts and Alice Lanczos, met with you to present our committee's support of the use of imazapyr to control knotweed in the Cedar River Watershed. Thank you for finding time for them in your busy schedule.

As Helen and Alice mentioned, the Water System Advisory Committee (WSAC) is in favor of the Seattle City Council amending the existing ordinance applicable to the use of imazapyr in the Cedar River Watershed. We think that using imazapyr will not affect the quality of the water that Seattle citizens drink and that this is an appropriate and safe method of managing knotweed and continuing to protect public health and Seattle's watershed. This is an informed conclusion resulting from full briefings from Seattle Public Utilities watershed staff and the recommendation of a WSAC subcommittee consisting of a conservation biologist and the retired director of a commercial hospital laundry business. The subcommittee performed an independent analysis of imazapyr studies and a cost/benefit analysis of the use of imazapyr versus other methods of controlling knotweed in the watershed.

WSAC believes that it makes good economic as well as ecological sense to proceed with amending the ordinance. We strongly encourage the Council to put this issue on the legislative agenda as soon as possible so that SPU can apply the imazapyr this September when it will have the greatest effect on knotweed and the least impact on other organisms. As you know, knotweed is a highly invasive plant. Every growing season in which it is not addressed allows the knotweed to spread, making it more expensive to treat and requiring more herbicide to control it. The plant may also spread closer to the river, requiring additional investment in hand pulling and blanket suffocation, a much more expensive treatment.

As you go forward with amending the ordinance, WSAC is willing to meet with concerned constituent groups, to write an op-ed piece for the newspaper and to otherwise support the City Council in your actions. Please contact Rachel Cardone, 206-612-3314, if you would like to speak with our committee.

Sincerely,

Eric Anderson, Medical Director of the Northwest Kidney Center West Seattle Dialysis Unit
Priscilla Call, Asset Manager, KeyBank; SouthEast Effective Development (SEED) and Delridge
Neighborhoods Development Association (DNDA)

Rachel Cardone, program manager, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene team, Bill and Melinda
Gates Foundation

Valerie Cholvin, Master's Degree in Water Resources

Tom Grant, consultant and project manager, environmental, and nuclear safety and security
issues

Alice Lanczos, retired accountant and auditor for the City of Seattle

Laura Firth Markley, freelance writer and developer of interpretive exhibits

Frank Metheny, retired director of commercial laundry serving six Seattle-area hospitals

Helen Ross Pitts, conservation biologist and aquatic ecologist

Ron Rochon, managing partner of Miller | Hull Partnership